

Battle of Antietam 144th Anniversary Hikes



On Saturday, September 16th and Sunday, September 17th, park rangers will offer numerous hikes to commemorate the 144th Anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. Fought on September 17, 1862, Union and Confederate Armies clashed for twelve hours over the rolling fields outside of Sharpsburg, Maryland. When the sun set, over 23,000 soldiers had been killed or wounded in what is considered the bloodiest one-day battle in American History.

This year the rangers will offer two series of hikes:

1. Battle Overview Hikes

These three hikes are designed for the first time visitor to Antietam and will explain the entire battle. Each hike is approximately one mile in length, less strenuous and will take about an hour and a half to complete. By joining the ranger on these hikes you will get the overall story of the Battle of Antietam.

2. Antietam In Depth

For the more detailed study of the battle, this series will cover more specific aspects of the twelve hour conflict. Each of these hikes will be approximately two miles in length, are more demanding and will take about two and one-half hours.

Battle Overview Hikes

The Morning Phase

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Hike starts and ends at the Visitor Center and will include the action in the Cornfield and West Woods.

The Mid-Day Phase

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Hike starts at the Visitor Center and will walk to the Sunken Road.

The Afternoon Phase

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hike starts and ends at Auto Tour Stop 9 - The Burnside Bridge.

Antietam In Depth

The Opening Guns of Battle

7:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

The hike starts at Auto Tour Stop 2 - The North Woods and follows the Union advance and the Confederate defense in and around the infamous Cornfield during the first hours of battle.

Attack and Defense of the Sunken Road

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

The hike starts at the Visitor Center and will explore the routes of Union advance and eventual breakthrough of what became known as Bloody Lane.

The Fight for Burnside Bridge and the Final Assault Towards Sharpsburg

2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The hike starts down at the Burnside Bridge and will cover the action to capture the bridge and the final attacks that will end the day.

The hikes will take place rain or shine. Hikers should dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking/hiking shoes and be prepared to hike across fields.